

TERRILL L. HILL
MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

MARY LAWSON BROWN
VICE MAYOR - COMMISSIONER

RUFUS J. BOROM
COMMISSIONER

JUSTIN R. CAMPBELL
COMMISSIONER

JAMES NORWOOD, JR.
COMMISSIONER



CITY of *Palatka* FLORIDA

Regular meeting 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at 6:00 p.m.

TERRY K. SUGGS
CITY MANAGER

BETSY JORDAN DRIGGERS
CITY CLERK

MATTHEW D. REYNOLDS
FINANCE DIRECTOR

JASON L. SHAW, SR.
CHIEF OF POLICE

MICHAEL LAMBERT
CHIEF FIRE DEPT

DONALD E. HOLMES
CITY ATTORNEY

MINUTES CITY OF PALATKA June 9, 2016

Proceedings of a Regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Palatka, Florida, held on the 9th day of June, 2016.

PRESENT:

Mayor	Terrill L. Hill
Commissioner	Mary Lawson Brown
Commissioner	Rufus Borom
Commissioner	Justin Campbell
Commissioner	James Norwood, Jr.

Also Present: City Manager Terry Suggs; City Attorney Donald E. Holmes; City Clerk Betsy Jordan Driggers; Finance Director Matt Reynolds; Police Chief Jason Shaw; Fire Chief Mike Lambert; Planning Director Thad Crowe; Airport Manager John Youell

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Vice Mayor Brown

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 5/26/16 – Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

1. PUBLIC RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNITION – Owen Meeks, Putnam Co. Delegate, American Legion's Boys State Convention – Mayor Hill introduced Owen Meeks, who was joined by members of the American Legion. Mr. Meeks spoke of the honor and privilege of being chosen as Putnam County Delegate to Boy's State. Mayor Hill said they are all very impressed with Mr. Meeks and his enthusiasm, pride in the community and level of intelligence. He will be a great steward for this Community. Vice Mayor Brown presented him with a City of Palatka lapel pin.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

John Lyon, owner of Steamboat Willies, said he heard of the town hall meetings regarding alcohol ordinance. He has been open in downtown for 30 years. They have seen the laws change several times. They had a restaurant for 25 years and closed it in 2007. They have discussed getting back into the restaurant business. They would like to do brunch service throughout the week. He supports allowing on-premises consumption on Sunday mornings which will encourage economic development. He'd like to open earlier and close at 2 a.m. on Sundays. They are open from 1 pm to midnight on Sundays. Sundays is one of their busiest days. Many service industry employees come out on Sunday nights. Surrounding communities have changed their laws to accommodate the service and restaurant industry. Changing the ordinance would be progressive and will help downtown.

Marc Spalding, 3400 Crill Avenue, said as to the alcohol ordinance, this is a two-sided issue. They are losing business because restaurants can't serve a beer before noon on Sunday. People can't buy beer at a grocery store before 1 pm on Sunday. It is not their job to legislate morality. What people do with their own time is their decision. He supports changing the ordinance. People who live in the City have to go buy their beer in the County.

Letha Godfrey, 1903 St. Johns Avenue, said she would like to keep chickens in the City. People are growing their own food and raising chickens. She'd like the Commission to amend the ordinance to allow chickens and chicken coops in the City. She doesn't want to eat the chickens; she'd like to own them for the egg production and for her children and students.

George Monkhouse, 1423 S. 15th Street, said as to the Blue Crab Festival, they need to coordinate this better to accommodate Memorial Day Ceremonies. It is Memorial Day weekend, not Blue Crab weekend.

Charles Godfrey, 447 East End Road, San Mateo, said he objects to moving the Clock Tower to the end of St. Johns Avenue. He appreciates all the elected officials do for the City. Mayor Hill thanked him and everyone at the Post for all they do in the community and asked him to coordinate a meeting with the City Manager to discuss.

Wayne Scarvowski, 105 E. St. Johns Terrace, E. Palatka, said the downtown is moving along well and makes an impressive sight when coming across the bridge. Business owners should be responsible for patrons who leave bars and act up. They all need to respect each other. Economic development will bring jobs to the area. Things are going in a positive direction.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Adopt Resolution No. 2016-12-39** awarding the Turf Maintenance Bid to Agrow Pro, Inc. in the amount of \$30,480 and authorizing execution of all contract agreements associated with this bid award
- b. **Adopt Resolution No. 2016-12-40** authorizing the conveyance of a perpetual easement over a portion of parcel 42-10-6850-1460-0083 to the State of Florida DOT for SR 20 drainage improvements
- c. **Appoint Commissioner Rufus Borom as City of Palatka Voting Delegate** to Florida League of Cities 2016 Annual Conference, and Vice Mayor Brown as Alternate Voting Member
- d. **Special Events Permit No 16-33 – ITEM WITHDRAWN**

Commissioner Norwood moved to pass all items on the Consent Agenda (a thru c) as recommended. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.

4. **SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE – 2016 City Commission, CRA meetings & TRIM Calendar –** The Clerk noted they propose no scheduled meetings during August for the City Commission or the CRA. Commissioner Norwood moved to adopt the 2016 Summer Meeting Schedule as proposed. Commissioner Borom seconded the motion, which passed unopposed.
5. **RESOLUTION** authorizing the submission of an application for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to construct storm water systems at the Riverfront Park – Adopt – **Mayor Hill announced this item was pulled from the Agenda**

6. **CITY MANAGER & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Suggs said they had a successful Blue Crab event and the concerns with the Memorial Day Ceremony were duly noted. He commended the public works department for the job they did on

litter and garbage control. That staff will be recognized at the next meeting. He received nothing but compliments on the appearance of the festival.

Mr. Suggs spoke on preparations for Tropical Storm that came through Palatka Monday night/Tuesday morning. He called in staff on Monday and put a team and plan in place. They put a command officer in place, readied and staged equipment, and called in Public Works employees. Germaine Douglas and Charles Poole were on duty all night with him. They cleaned storm drains and debris. The Fire Department ran around 13 calls. They had to shut down Moseley Avenue at 13th Street and Crill Avenue at the underpass due to flooding. City staff responded well.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Brown said the FLC Advocacy committee will be contacting the Commission on regarding survey. She brought back information from the League President concerning his initiatives. She brought back information on proposed Constitutional revisions, which happens every 20 years.

Commissioner Norwood said it was nice to not have to deal with a lot of debris on Tuesday morning following the storm. He congratulated staff on the handling of Blue Crab, which ran smoothly. Downtown was clean.

Commissioner Borom thanked everyone for keeping them all updated during the storm and for Staff's execution of damage control measures. The Blue Crab Festival was a success. They did not have any alcohol-related incidents.

Commissioner Campbell also congratulated staff on storm control and Blue Crab Festival. He is excited to see community policing come back to Palatka. He sees officers on bikes and in the community interacting with citizens and children, which makes them feel more comfortable. The Fire Department is doing a great job with community programs and working with children.

8. ADJOURN – There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Hill with consensus of the Commission.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE CITY COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE MAY NEED TO INSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. FS 286.105